

BUMPS AND JINKS.

The Pair of Noble Brothers Again on Deck.

As our reporter was wandering about a few evenings ago he came across our old friends Bumps and Jinks who were engaged in earnest discussion of politics. Jinks had but recently returned from another voyage and had evidently been recounting some of the things he had heard, and Bumps, in a rather than usual earnest strain, was explaining the situation.

After hearty greetings were exchanged Jinks turned to Bumps and continuing said:

"By the way I don't get my bearings exactly, most every one whom I hear say anything about it says the Ministers is pretty good fellows, and the Government has 'parently done things on the square an' there has been big improvements made and all that, an' yet a good many talks again them an' says there ought to be a change. I don't size it up somewhat. What's the matter?"

"Well," says Bumps, "it seems kinder strange. But there's always reasons for things. Of course, there is some who is not satisfied because they have not made as much out of it as they expected, some heads is sore, and others think they could run the thing a good deal better themselves."

"Of course there is lots of unreasonable men to be found everywhere, but Jinks, it 'pears to me that there is some reasons as has not bin spoken of much which may help to 'count for some of the talk yer hear."

"We'll, what is it Bumps, I'm not here as much as you is, and don't git the hang of these things anyhow."

"I'll tell yer, Jinks, besides personal reasons individuals have, there's a good many folks talks that way 'cause they doesn't know enough about what's goin' on in the Government. You see the business is a kinder close corporation concern. Formerly the old man and the Ministers jess everlastingly owned the hull thing and run it to suit themselves, an' that led to the fuss they had two years ago. There has been a good deal of change in this respect, but there's some left. The old man don't own much now but the Ministers does. There's something funny 'bout Government business that changes feller's ideas. When a feller's whoopin' it up to get himself elected, or ter git some other feller out, he jess opens his soul ter ther 'dear people,' (as they calls them) and tells 'em as how the Ministers and all folks in office is only their servants, and they the 'dear people,' is the owners; an' the light of public skirting mus' be turned on to 'em an' all such stuff. But when they get in themselves they 'pear to forget a good deal. At first they stir around and talk o' and says things, an' all hands thinks there's going to be big improvement. But in a little while they 'pear to be impressed with the weight of ther 'responsibilities and they shut up like clam shells an' folks outside don't know much about it than they did before. Now it 'pears to me that's just one big cause of the bile in the public stumank."

"But, Bumps," said Jinks, "I thought these feller that's been running the thing the last two years had been doin' different, an' besides lots of public works had been carried on an' there had been a great change for the better."

"That's so, Jinks," replied Bumps, "but human nature is human nature, an' there's allus a tendency in folks to feel how important an' necessary they is. An' ther's something in nature thet when big power is given to a feller after a little he begins ter think he's the only feller that ken do the job. An' the nex' thing is ter become secret an' mysterious. The old roosters that prepared the shipping articles they calls the "constitution" in Ameriky understood human nature, an' special the kind that comes out under the high livin' of office, or livin' of high office, an' they fixed it different. Among other things they had it so that the crew was shipped for short voyages. At the end of the voyage the hull gang could be shipped over again if the owners chose, but they hed to ship new each time. An' then they had it fixed so that the owners knew what was going on."

"But I thought, Bumps, that when they took the ship into dock here two years ago and patched her up they kinder fixed the thing an' made her over after the Amerikin model."

"Well, they did, Bumps, after a fashion, but the frame of the critter wasn't changed much. They couldn't do that without taking her ter pieces. They made big changes in her 'er made her easier to handle and sail better, but the model wasn't changed much. Now these feller who hev been sailing her the last two years has done fust rate in the main but there's fault in the system. The thing may be making a good voyage but somehow the durned owners don't know much about it."

"I tell yer, Jinks, I believe that a good deal of the growling you hear is jess because the owners hasn't been kept informed enough about what's going on, for they that knows say she's been handled fust class and has been making the best voyage she ever made." You see the Ministers stay right in their offices and don't go about the country to see the owners or to see what's needed or to explain nothing. How would it work to have the cap'n and officers of a ship shut up in the cabin all the time and send all their orders and get all their information by letters? Now that feller in the Interior Office has been around two or three times an' it's done lots of good to him and to the people. There's something wrong in the sailing orders, or in the management somehow, when the chief officers has to spend all their time shut up doing clerical work."

"Now, in the education department there's a different arrangement; they have an inspecting officer who keeps goin' around to see how things is. They've got a big, good lookin' feller for inspector, an' the fact that the teachers knows he's coming around has a powerful effect. In that department things is kept trim and shipshape, an' you hear precious little growling."

"I tell you, Jinks, there's something wrong in the system."

At this point the reporter had to catch on to an item and he left his friends still discussing the matter.

BUYING MACHINERY.

Hints For Farmers Who Intend to Purchase Tools and Implements.

It is an easy matter to buy machinery in this day and age. Spring, summer, autumn and winter the farmer is beset by agents and dealers to buy machinery, no matter if he already has an outfit, he is urged and urged to buy the latest, buy the best, buy any thing, buy every thing. It makes no difference whether he has the cash or not. He can't get off by pleading inability or lack of ready means.

"Just as lief wait on him as not. Little scratch of a note to show the indebtedness bearing enough interest to save a loss on the transaction," etc., etc.

Enterprising agents never let a trade fall through for want of cash. Cash is, of course, quite as acceptable to them as to all other business men; but if all their customers paid cash, their (the agents') profits would be much smaller than they are now.

The farmer who buys on time, no matter if he does give his note bearing a good rate of interest, haggles but little as to the price of the goods. Any machine agent will admit that he gets from ten to twenty per cent. more for an implement that he sells on time. An agent will sell a mower for \$55 cash to one farmer while he gets a note of \$70 from another for a like machine.

The principal, or the manufacturer, ostensibly frowns at this style of doing business, while in reality he encourages it.

The farmer who pays a fair rate of interest on his note should get his machine as low as the cash customer gets his. He is required to give a property statement note, which can be discounted at the nearest bank at any time, if the holder wishes to realize money upon it.

If an agent or dealer will not give bottom prices on a note transaction, would it not be better for the farmer to raise the money himself and thus get the benefit of whatever reduction could be obtained through a cash transaction? The farmer who pays cash can also deal where he pleases. He is not at the mercy of a single local dealer and obliged to buy just such a line of goods as this agent offers. There are arguments in favor of dealing with local dealers provided they carry what the farmer wants and will deal upon a fair basis. The farmer has a better opportunity of learning from those who have already purchased just how the machine operates. The machine is before his eyes and he can tell much better what he is buying than he could if he ordered from the manufacturers.

While the manufacturers are uniform in their prices, as a rule, they can get no better terms from them than he can from the dealers whom they supply.

There is now hardly a section of country but in which the farmers have access to several dealers in farm implements. Every small town has its dealer or dealers. Some of these dealers will be pretty apt to carry the goods the farmer wants. When he finds a good, square dealer, who handles first-class implements, he should deal with him exclusively.

Cheaply-made, worthless implements are creeping into the market every day. We can not expect the implement trade to be entirely free from this evil in such an age of imitation and cheat. No farmer should buy implements without first testing them, or obliging the agent to give them a good, thorough trial. Nor should he sign the scratch of a paper in the form of an order, receipt of machine, or any other dodge to fasten the trade upon him, before he knows whether or not he wants to buy.

When the farmer comes to the conclusion that a certain implement or machine will prove profitable on his farm, he should proceed to look about him for the best make of that kind of machine. The proper place to ascertain this is among practical farmers who have the machine in actual use, not among the dealers altogether, unless the farmer is already informed as to his needs. As the outfit of machinery and implements on an ordinary farm will cost not far from \$1,000 the farmer can not well be too careful and considerate of his ultimate wants in making his implement purchases. —Western Plowman.

Growing Sheep for Mutton.

The farmers near to market, in many cases are selling lambs now at about ten cents a pound, gross weight. When the right selection has been made in breeding for the fleece, a good number are getting four dollars a head from the ewe. The lamb and fleece together make a gross return for the flock of nearly ten dollars per ewe, and she is retained all right for several successive seasons. It will not be advisable for every one to expect such fall returns from a flock the first season, but while experts are doing well, others may at least do something. —Orange Judd Farmer.

A young man from the country who lately found work in Akron, felt curious to know how the electric lamps were lighted. A night or two since he planted himself at a street corner to watch the process. He grew tired waiting, but at last darkness came, and his breath was suddenly knocked out by seeing the lamp blaze up without any human agency whatever.

A near-sighted amateur photographer of Lima, O., took what he thought was a very affecting picture of a young lady kissing a young man in a shaded dell near the town. When he developed the picture it affected him a great deal more than he bargained for, as the young lady proved to be his wife.

VALUE OF THE DOG IN WAR.

Some of the Uses to Which Our Canine Friends Are Being Trained.

Veterinary Surgeon Bennett, in his lecture at the United States Institute, told the interesting and strange story of the war dog from Roman days downward. Coming to Christian times we are reminded of the war dog used by the Spaniards in America; by the Earl of Essex in Ireland during the rebellion; by the English in the defense of Tangiers, when dogs saved the guards from a great ambush of Moors; of the famous French dog Mustache, who detected a surprise the first night before Alexandria, who fought at Marengo, saved the standard of his regiment before Austerlitz, and was decorated on the battlefield. Then the lecturer recalled how, after the famous campaign of Gen. Skobeleff in Asia Minor, the Russians decided to instruct dogs as sentinels, and how finally the Germans took up the question in 1885 and developed it until now a dog can carry back a message from outposts more quickly than the best mounted uhlans. There are at least five distinct purposes for which trained dogs can be used in war:

1. As auxiliary sentinels to the outposts and sentries and to the advanced rear and flank guards in general.
2. As scouts, on the march, on reconnaissance, and patrol duties.
3. As dispatch bearers, on the march, in camp, in action, etc.
4. As auxiliary ammunition carriers on the march and in action.
5. As searchers for the wounded and killed after an engagement.

Coming to the best kind of dogs for training, the lecturer had a good word of course to say for the shepherd dog, the retriever and the spaniel, and for the bloodhound as the dog par excellence for tracking, for following up the enemy into the mountains, through jungle and forest, and for running down dakots and other marauders.

And since the bloodhound scent is so acute he would require neither to hear nor see to give warning of the approach of the foe at night or in thick covert. In a discussion among some experts and distinguished and "doggy" general officers following the lecture, it was pointed out that the bloodhound, in sentry work or on night marches, could give warning by his nose alone of the approach of strange bodies at a distance of about 300 yards, under favorable conditions of wind, and that the bloodhound's steadfastness by night and day in following up human scent is such that although crossed by deer and other game he does not let the leading scent.

By way of illustrating the value of the war dog in carrying ammunition during action to the front a trained retriever was shown gridded with his leather saddle bags capable of carrying eighty rounds of the new rifle cartridge. Altogether the dog appeared to find considerable favor among the audience gathered at Whitehall place, and the general opinion seemed to prevail that if he is ever lucky enough to find official recognition of the war office he is destined to play a useful part in the game of our little wars. —Fall Mall Budget.

The Parrot and the Bat.

On a sultry evening last week a bat flew into the sitting room of a house at Scranton, Pa., and dashed against the parrot's cage. It struck the cage with force enough to drive it between the wires, and it began to creep around the bottom of the cage and flap its injured wings. The parrot was asleep when the bat flew in, but it got awake in an instant, and it screeched and screamed and yelled "Oh my!" so many times that the lady of the house ran in from the piazza to see what the trouble was with the family pet. The moment she entered the room the parrot told the fluttering little creature to get out in a very shrill tone, repeating the command a number of times. The bat didn't get out, although it tried very hard to do so, and the parrot got mad, bristled up and dived from its perch at the puny intruder. For a few seconds the parrot had such a lively tussle in the bottom of the cage that it upset everything and scattered seeds all around the room, and then it hopped back to its perch and began to scratch its throat with its right foot as though it had been bitten by the bat.

"Gracious! how that hurt!" the parrot yelled, after it had stopped scratching, and smoothed out its wings and feathers, the bat still wabbling about and trying to find a place to crawl out. It couldn't find one, and the parrot sang out: "I'll fix it!" and pitched at the bat again. The little thing squeaked and tried to defend itself when the parrot tackled it, but the ugly bird used both claws and bill, and it soon had the bat's wings torn into strips. Then it gave the bat a pinch on the neck, shook it up and down, dropped it suddenly and hopped to the top of the cage and shrieked, looking down at the lying little creature. When the parrot saw the bat was dead, it looked at its mistress, jumped from its perch to its ring and back again, laughed, and yelled out:

"What is it, mother?"

The value of the parrot had doubled in the estimation of its owner since it killed the bat. —Philadelphia North American.

—Gum chewing, according to recent reports, is the prevailing mania in Albion, Neb. The disgusting habit has become so general that parents and preachers inveigh against it, but to no effect. During services in church last Sunday the dominie delicately insinuated that the congregation looked like a corral of munching cattle, so industriously did the jaws wag. While the preacher was rounding an eloquent peroration on the beauties of the echoes shore, a mighty yell rent the rafters. It came from the paralyzed jaw of a Mr. Cato, who had been suddenly smitten with lead colic, caused by chewing adulterated gum. Cato was taken home and the congregation dismissed. Next day a ton of second-hand gum was plucked from the pews and dumped into the raging Beaver.

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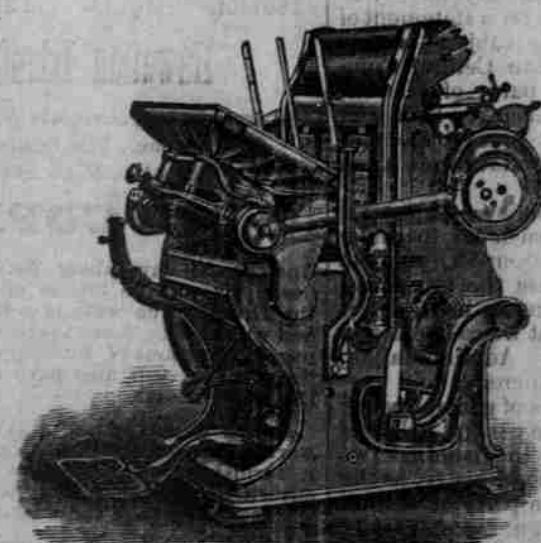
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